

CLAIMS

[1] A content reproduction device which reproduces a stream media content linked from a multimedia content, said device comprising:

5 a display unit operable to display the multimedia content;
a reproducing unit operable to reproduce the stream media content;

a reproduction state change accepting unit operable to accept, from a user, reproduction state change information indicating a change in a reproduction state of the stream media content; and

10 a return position determining unit operable to determine, according to the reproduction state change information accepted by said reproduction state change accepting unit, a return position in the multimedia content for a transition after the reproduction of the stream media content is ended,

15 wherein said display unit is operable to display the multimedia content located in the determined return position.

[2] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1,

20 wherein said return position determining unit is operable to obtain a transition condition table describing a relationship between the reproduction state and the return position, and to determine the return position based on the transition condition table and the reproduction state change information.

25 [3] The content reproduction device according to Claim 2, further comprising

a storing unit in which the multimedia content, the stream media content and the transition condition table are stored,

30 wherein said reproducing unit is operable to reproduce the stored stream media content,

said display unit is operable to display the stored multimedia

content, and

said return position determining unit is operable to determine the return position based on the stored transition condition table and the stored reproduction state change information.

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[4] The content reproduction device according to Claim 2, further comprising

a receiving unit operable to receive, from a server via a network, the multimedia content, the stream media content and the transition condition table,

10 wherein said reproducing unit is operable to reproduce the received stream media content,

said display unit is operable to display the received multimedia content, and

15 said return position determining unit is operable to determine the return position based on the received transition condition table and the received reproduction state change information.

[5] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2,

20 wherein the return position is at least two different URLs.

[6] The content reproduction device according to Claim 2, wherein the reproduction state change information includes at least one of stop, fast-forward, rewind or pause as a change in the reproduction state, and time information indicating time when the change is made in the reproduction state, and

25 said return position determining unit is operable to determine, with reference to the reproduction state which corresponds to the time information, the return position based on whether or not a transition condition described in the transition condition table is satisfied.

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[7] The content reproduction device according to Claim 2,
wherein said return position determining unit is operable to
determine, as the return position, a default return position which is
previously determined or determined without conditions, in the case
5 where the return position corresponding to the reproduction state
change information is not described in the transition condition table.

[8] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1,
wherein at least a first content and a second content are
10 included in the multimedia content to be displayed after the
reproduction of the stream media content is ended, and

said display unit is operable (a) to display the first content in
the case where the reproduction information change information is
accepted until the reproduction of the stream media content is
15 ended, and (b) to display the second content in the case where the
reproduction information change information is not accepted until
the reproduction of the stream media content is ended.

[9] The content reproduction device according to Claim 8,
20 wherein said display unit is operable (a) to display the first
content in the case where the reproduction information change
information includes one of fast-forward and stop, and (b) to display
the second content in the case where the reproduction information
change information includes neither of fast-forward and stop.

25 [10] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1, further
comprising

a reproduction history storing unit which holds a history of the
reproduction state change information,

30 wherein upon receiving the reproduction state change
information from said reproduction state change accepting unit and
changing the reproduction state, said reproducing unit is operable to

notify said reproduction history storing unit of the reproduction state change information, and

after the reproduction of the stream media content is ended, said return position determining unit is operable to read the history
5 of the reproduction state change information held in said reproduction history storing unit, and to determine the return position.

[11] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1, further
10 comprising

a reading unit operable to read, via a storage medium, at least one of the stream media content, the multimedia content, and the transition condition table.

15 [12] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1, wherein upon receiving the reproduction state change information from said reproduction state change accepting unit and changing the reproduction state, said reproducing unit is operable to notify said return position determining unit of the reproduction
20 state change information, and

after the reproduction of the stream media content is ended, said return position determining unit is operable to determine the return position based on the reproduction state change information.

25 [13] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1, wherein said return position determining unit holds a state which changes each time the reproduction state change information is received from said reproducing unit, and is operable to determine the return position based on the state after the reproduction of the
30 stream media content is ended, and

said display unit is operable to display the multimedia content located in the return position.

[14] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1,
wherein said display unit holds a state which changes each
time the reproduction state change information is received from said
reproducing unit, and

5 after the reproduction of the stream media content is ended,
said display unit is operable to determine the return position
according to the state and notify said return position determining
unit of the return position.

10 [15] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1,
wherein said reproducing unit holds a state which changes
each time the state of reproducing the stream media content is
changed, and is operable, after the reproduction of the stream
media content is ended, to determine the return position according
15 to the state, and to notify said return position determining unit of
the return position.

[16] The content reproduction device according to Claim 14 or
Claim 15,

20 wherein, after the reproduction of the stream media content
is ended, one of said display unit and said reproducing unit is
operable to read the state and a history of the reproduction state
change information held in said reproduction history storing unit, to
determine the return position, and to notify said return position
25 determining unit of the return position.

[17] The content reproduction device according to Claim 1,

wherein said return position determining unit is operable to
(a) determine a screen for exempting charging, as the return
30 position of the multimedia content, in the case where the
reproduction state change information is not found until the
reproduction of the stream media content is ended, and (b)

determine a screen for charging, as the return position of the multimedia content, in the case where the reproduction information change information is found until the reproduction of the stream media content is ended.

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[18] A server apparatus which distributes a multimedia content and a stream media content to a content reproduction device, said server comprising:

10 a table generating unit operable to generate a transition condition table describing a relationship between a reproduction state of the stream media content in the content reproduction device, and a transit destination in the multimedia content in accordance with the reproduction state; and

15 a transmitting unit operable to transmit the transition condition table to the content reproduction device.

[19] A content reproduction method used by a content reproduction device which reproduces a stream media content linked from a multimedia content, said method comprising:

20 a display step of displaying the multimedia content;
a reproduction step of reproducing the stream media content;
a reproduction state change acceptance step of accepting, from a user, reproduction state change information indicating a change in a reproduction state of the stream media content; and
25 a return position determination step of determining, according to the reproduction state change information accepted in the reproduction state change acceptance step, a return position in the multimedia content for a transition after the reproduction of the stream media content is ended,

30 wherein, in said display step, the multimedia content located in the determined return position is displayed.

[20] The content reproduction method according to Claim 19,
wherein, in the return position determination step, a
transition condition table describing a relationship between the
reproduction state and the return position is obtained, and the
5 return position is determined based on the transition condition table
and the reproduction state change information.

[21] A program used by a content reproduction device which
reproduces a stream media content linked from a multimedia
10 content, said program comprising:

- a display step of displaying the multimedia content;
- a reproduction step of reproducing the stream media content;
- a reproduction state change acceptance step of accepting,
from a user, reproduction state change information indicating a
15 change in a reproduction state of the stream media content; and

- a return position determination step of determining,
according to the reproduction state change information accepted in
the reproduction state change acceptance step, a return position in
the multimedia content for a transition after the reproduction of the
20 stream media content is ended,

wherein, in the display step, the multimedia content located
in the determined return position is displayed.

[22] The program according to Claim 21,

25 wherein, in the return position determination step, a
transition condition table describing a relationship between the
reproduction state and the return position is obtained, and the
return position is determined based on the transition condition table
and the reproduction state change information.

30 [23] A computer-readable storage medium in which the program
according to Claim 21 or Claim 22 is stored.